



Shady Notes

Volume 24, Issue 6

July, 2023



President
Phyllis Weidman

A MESSAGE FROM OUR PRESIDENT

So sorry we had to cancel the June 18th meeting. The weather was supposed to be rain with thunder and lightning. I guess making the call to cancel is part of the president's job, so blame me if your Sunday was ruined. It did, however, test our ability to get information out to all members. You should have found out about the cancelation in an email message, on Facebook or on our website. I understand that most of you did find out about the cancelation. Check these important sources before you start your trip to the meeting. Let's hope we don't have to do this again for some time.

No chance for weather issues for the meeting in July. We are meeting at the Commerce Bank Education Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden, commonly abbreviated CBEC. You know the place where we had BBQ and heard the owl man speak back in February.

July is AUCTION month. The Auction is open to all who love hosta and are willing to buy. Make sure you tell everyone you know. There will be hostas donated by individual gardeners, the Missouri Botanical Garden and Bob Solberg of Green Hill Farms Nursery. It will be an opportunity to get something different for your garden or maybe something you are searching for. The auctioneers will be Janelle Criscione and Gene Pulliam. It will be lots of fun so make sure to mark your calendar.

July is also the month you should be checking your garden for southern blight. It is the hot humid time of year that *Sclerotium rolfsii* fungus loves. It is in the soil, so drench the soil well with anything that contains Tebuconazole. This is what is done at the Missouri Botanical Garden. Starting in April, every month the hostas crowns and soil get sprayed. There may still be some plants that show signs of the fungus, but that is taken care of with a 10% bleach solution. It will stop the fungus this year and the plant will regrow. Consider spraying that area of your garden early next year because the fungus is in the soil.

Gardening is not always easy but you can always find the answers from fellow hosta gardeners.

Phyllis

2023 CALENDAR OF EVENTS

July 13-15	Midwest Regional Hosta Convention Rochester, MN
July 16	Members Plant Auction 2:00 PM, MOBot CBEC, Room 125 4651 Shaw, St. Louis, MO 63110
August 20	Garden Walk 2:00 PM, Hostas on the Bluff 1601 Pleasantview Dr., Fairview Heights, IL 62208
September 17	Meeting with Speaker Dean Gunderson 2:00 PM, Des Peres Lodge 1050 Des Peres Rd., Des Peres, MO 63130
October 15	Meeting with Speaker TBD
November	Board Meeting Time and location TBD
December	Holiday Party Home of Melinda Ligon - Time and location TBD
June 18-22, 2024	AHS National Convention Marlborough, MA
July 11-13, 2024	Midwest Regional Hosta Convention Fond du Lac, WI

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS!

Heather Anderson of Wildwood, MO
Debra Carpenter of Webster Groves, MO
Laurie Merli of Webster Groves, MO

It is exciting to have you as new members in our society. Come join us at the Commerce Bank Education Center of the Missouri Botanical Garden (CBEC) for our annual auction. There will be an assortment of hostas – large, small, green, gold and blue. There's bound to be one that fits your taste and needs. This fun event is a wonderful opportunity for you to get to know us and for us to get to know you. You might even be the high bidder for a hosta that you always wanted.

MEMBER PLANT AUCTION

July 16, 2:00 PM

What's on your garden wish list this year?

Another mouse relative?

Minis to fill out your new trough?

A gold to brighten that dark corner?

An icy blue to compliment that gold?

Something to fill the holes left empty by marauding voles?

You're in luck! The ever-popular member plant auction kicks off on Sunday, July 16 – just a few weeks away.

This year's event is chaired by Janelle Criscione and Gene Pulliam. They are just back from the AHS National Convention in Ames, IA where they participated in a live auction at the national level. Let's see if they picked up any auctioneering tips from the pros. The annual auction is one of two events that fund our society's yearly activities such as the holiday party, make the publication of this newsletter possible and bring interesting speakers to our events.

Tomorrow morning before the sun gets blistering hot and the humidity soars, take a walk in your garden to check if any plant could be divided. Take an eye or two, pot and label it and bring it with you on July 16th. It's not too late. Then survey your piece of paradise to see if there are barren spots that are badly in need of a little TLC. All these plants have been donated by your fellow members, plants that they have grown and obviously flourish in the St. Louis area.

So come bring your wish list and, of course, your checkbook or credit card. Be ready to outbid your fellow hostaholics. That plant that you've been dying to have your whole life may be there waiting for your bid.

But most of all socialize, get to know our new members, share your recent gardening experiences and join your fellow society members for an afternoon of fun.

The meeting location is Room #125 in the Commerce Bank Center for Science Education (commonly referred to by the acronym CBEC). The same place we had our Feb potluck. This building is located a few blocks **west** of the Missouri Botanical Gardens main campus. The address is 4651 Shaw Blvd. There is ample parking in front of the building.

Directions:

Traveling on either I-44 or I-64/40 take the Kingshighway exit. Travel South on Kingshighway to Shaw Blvd. Turn left onto Shaw. Note that at this location Shaw is split into two sections one heading East and another section heading West. O'Connell's Pub sits in between the two sections of Shaw. The entrance to the parking lot for CBEC is on the West heading section. After turning East onto Shaw, travel to the end of O'Connell's Pub parking lot and then turn left onto the West heading section. The gated entrance to CBEC is on the right.



June Garden Walk Home of Janelle Criscione



Visitors are greeted by plush plantings of hostas, a large ligularia and several tree peonies.



A redbud 'Rising Sun' was the Star of the side yard.



One of the lovely ladies that live in Janelle's yard.



An elegant lady holds her hat in place as she tiptoes through the hostas in the back border near the rehabbed chicken coop.



Members admire Janelle's collection beautifully grown hostas in beds that encircle the back lawn.



What else could it be but H. 'Yellow Polka Dot Bikini'.

What an
exquisite garden
– cool, serene
and inviting.

**Thank you
Janelle**



What a smug little fellow!

June Presentation – Annie Kuhn Flower arranging using hosta leaves



Speaker Annie Kuhn and hostess Janelle Criscione



Members chat while waiting for Annie's presentation.



Annie starts with the foliage and builds her arrangement from there.



Annie emphasized the importance of having a spotless vase. Change water often.



The large hosta leaves form the base for roses, carnations and stock.



In 2020 a hosta introduced by Don Dean was named *H.* 'Best Friend' in memory of Phyllis Weidman's husband Jim who was active, not only in our local society, but also in AHS. The hosta was tissue-cultured by Rob Mortko. Last October, Rob brought a tray of small blue hostas to our meeting. These in turn were given to nursery *Hostas on the Bluff* to be grown to retail size. The hosta has proven to be a good grower.

At the June meeting, attending members were given this hosta for their own gardens. Phyllis, shown at left with her 'Best Friend', wished each person, as they grow Jim's hosta, to think of their own best friends.

June

Over the river and through the corn fields, five intrepid members of our society traveled to the American Hosta Society National Convention in Ames Iowa. They all had the same goals in mind – renew old friendships and make new ones; visit gardens lovingly prepared for our enjoyment, learn something new, eat well, buy a hosta or two or three and admire an extensive array of beautifully grown and displayed hosta leaves.

Three days packed with activities. On Thursday we were educated. With writer and speaker Susan Martin, we learned that we should “work with what we have”, “fall in love with foliage” and “some you win and some you lose”. Don’t be afraid to fail. Learn to appreciate all the finer details that exist in the shade. Pair plants that complement one another in color, texture and form. Irvin Etienne built on these ideas by encouraging us to add extra color, texture and boldness through the use of tropicals.

Evening speaker Bob Solberg discussed what makes a great hosta and listed what he considers the top ten hostas of the 20th Century and then the top ten hostas of the 21st Century. These are the ones that should be the stars of everyone’s garden.

Friday and Saturday found us traveling city streets and rural roads in search of beautiful gardens. We found them! Some were small city lots packed with hundreds of gorgeous plants, others clung to the sides of ravines, while others were spread around sweeping lawns. All of one’s gardens are unique to themselves and reflect their personality and interests.

Gene was a happy camper having found the vendor room early. He enjoyed the live auction immensely, successfully acquiring some that were on his wish list. His jeep was packed for the journey home.

It's safe to say a good time was had by all. Many thanks to the convention sponsors, The Russ O’Harra Hosta Society. Well done!



The St. Louis contingent: Dave and Joan Poos, Phyllis Weidman, Gene Pulliam and Janelle Criscione before indulging in a delicious dinner on Wednesday night.



Janelle with hosta icons hybridizers Mark Zilis and Bob Solberg.



Phyllis and Gene in Gene's favorite place – the vending room.

Photos from Phyllis Weidman

Hosta Show – there were ribbons won!



A room full of hosta leaves – some small ...



... and some very large



Congratulations Janelle - Best of Class for her *H. 'Royal Wedding'*



Congratulations Phyllis – Best of Class for *H. 'Lemon Frost'*



Elaborate entries like this Best of Artistic Design winner.



Blue ribbon winner - Phyllis's *H. 'Royal Tiara'*.



Blue ribbon winner - Phyllis's *H. 'Lightning Flash'*



Best of Show - Andrea Geske's *H. 'Andrew'*

St. Louis Hosta Society Officials

Phyllis Weidman – President
314- 630-9036 Cell
Pow1031@gmail.com

Jolly Ann Whitener – Secretary
jawhit6@gmail.com

David Birenbaum – Treasurer
314-650-5200
d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net

Melinda Ligon – Hospitality
314-749-7307
meligon@sbcglobal.net

Dave Poos – Vice-President
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

Lynn Teller – Webmaster
314-306-1478
lynn.teller@gmail.com

Joan Poos – Newsletter Editor
314-821-1622
david.poos@att.net

St. Louis Hosta Society Membership Information

Contact: David Birenbaum
209 Brook Lane
O'Fallon, MO 63368
d.birenbaum@sbcglobal.net

Dues: \$7 per year, \$18 for three years
Family or Individual

Meetings held at **The Des Peres Lodge, 1050 Des Peres Road, Des Peres, MO 63130** (near I270 and Manchester Rd) unless otherwise noted.

Visit our Web site: www.stlhosta.org

Visit us on Facebook, St. Louis Hosta Society



Midwest Regional Hosta Society

The Midwest Regional Hosta Society represents Region 5 of the American Hosta Society that includes 9 states.

Membership in the society is \$20.00 for two years, which includes two issues per year of the newsletter.

Please mail a check made payable to **MRSH** to:

Mona Keehn
1635 Chippewa Drive NW
Rochester, MN 55091

along with name, address, phone and email (Most correspondence is by email). For questions email:

MRHS.Hosta@gmail.com



AMERICAN HOSTA SOCIETY

Members receive three issues per year of The Hosta Journal, which includes color photographs of hostas, reports on national conventions, scientific information concerning current research pertaining to hostas, and advertisements of interest to hosta families.

Membership checks should be made out to "AHS," and mailed to:

Barry Ankney, AHS Membership Secretary
1104 Oxford Ct
Oakbrook Terrace, IL 60181

Dues for one year are \$30 for an individual and \$34 for a family. For more information, visit the AHS website: <http://www.americanhostasociety.org/>